

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5283

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, UR, AR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ACCOUNT OF PERON INTERVIEW

REF: BA 0966 AND MOSCOW 1868

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA ACCOUNT OF PERON'S INTERVIEW WITH TASS APPEARS TO CARRY INTERESTING VARIATION FROM SPANISH TEXT REPORTED HERE. END SUMMARY

2. AS REPORTED BY MOSCOW 1868, PRAVDA'S ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW QUOTES PERON AS STATING DECLARATIVELY THAT BREZHNEV VISIT TO CUBA WAS "DICTATED BY GOODWILL AND INTENTION TO ARREST CONTINUATION OF HOSTILITY BETWEEN A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY AND US."

3. ACCORDING TO TEXTS OF INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN PRESS HERE (WHICH REFLECT OFFICIAL GOA VERSION), PERON PHRASED THOUGHT IN CONDITIONAL TENSE. ASKED TO COMMENT ON BREZHNEV VISIT, HE REPLIED: "IT WAS GOOD, IF (RPT IF) THE TRIP WAS UNDERTAKEN WITH THE GOOD INTENTION OF ENDING THE CONFRONTATION WHICH CONTINUES BETWEEN A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY AND THE NORTH AMERICANS."

4. COMMENT. IF PRAVDA'S REPHRASING OF PERON'S FORMULATION
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ON PURPOSE OF TRIP WAS DELIBERATE, AS WE WOULD ASSUME IT

WOULD BE, MIGHT THIS NOT GIVE ADDED SIGNIFICANCE TO FACT
SOVIETS ARE FLOATING LINKAGE IDEA? MIGHT NOT PURPOSE BE
TO SUGGEST TO LATIN AMERICANS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES
THAT US-CUBAN RPPROCHEMENT WAS INDEED PURPOSE OF BREZHNEV
VISIT, AND, HENCE, THAT IF US REFUSES TO BE REASONABLE
AND MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION, IT IS NOT FAULT OF SOVIETS?
SOVIETS MAY HOPE THIS WILL COMPLICATE US POSITION ON CUBA
AT UPCOMING MEXICO MFM.
KREBS

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